

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

THE COMPARATIVE VOCABULARY.

WITH reference to the Lists of Words used by Wild Tribes, published in the last number of the Journal, the attention of the Society has been drawn to certain inaccuracies in the list of Balau Dyak words, and the following corrections should be made:—

NOSE—"Hidong." Should be "Idong." Sea Dyak is without an initial aspirate. No Dyak word begins with an "h."

TOOTH—"Ngigi." This word is "Gigi." "Ngigi" would be a verb, supposing the word existed, which it does not. But the more common word for tooth is "Ngeli." This, I believe, to be the more ancient term, "Gigi" a later one, as applied to the human tooth. But the teeth of any manufactured article, *e. g.*, a saw, would be "Gigi." "Ngeli" ought at the very least to have been given as a comparison word.

EGG—"Tələh." "Telü" is the word, and the only one. Where the form Tələh comes from is a mystery to me—certainly not from Balau Dyak.

ELEPHANT—"Gaja." Should be spelt "Gajah."

FLOWER—"Bungah." "Bunga" is a flower; "Bungah" is to make fun.

COCOANUT—"Unjor." This is a case of inaccurate spelling also. "Unjor" is to stretch forth the hands. "Njor" or "Ngiur" is cocoanut.

TIN—"Tima." "Timah" is the Malay word which Dyaks are getting to use. "Tima" is non-existent. "Besiputeh" (white iron) is the universal term for tin.

ARROW—"Sūmpana." This word, or anything like it, has no right to be in the list at all, for the simple reason that the Dyaks never had the thing. Both the thing and word "Panah" are known, only as Malay, or at least as coming somewhere from the sea. Some ten years ago I taught a Dyak lad to make a bow and arrow, and I had to teach him the word for it. It may have been that some Dyak in ignorance trying to remember something he had seen, stumbled out "Sempanah;" but the whole thing is extra Dyak. The only arrow they have is that of the sumpitan, which is *not* "Damba," as given in the note, but "Dambak," or, in some dialects, "Laja."

PADDLE—"Snayong." Write "Sengaiyoh." A mistake in so common a word is strange.

SPEAR—"Sanko." Write "Sangkoh."

HOT—"Panas." "Panas" is the heat—hot objectively. The feeling of heat is "Angat." "A hot day" would be "Ari panas amai," but "I am hot" "Aku angat." "Ai angat" however, is hot water.

NINE—"Sēmbilang." Should be "Sambîlan," as in Malay. "Sembilang" is a poisonous fish.

There are a few other inaccuracies, but they are evidently clerical errors: as "Mon" for "Moa" (face); "Filin" for "Lilin" (wax); "Apai-andar" for "Apai-andan" (star); "Chelun" for "Chelum" (black); "Aran," for "Aram" (come along).